

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

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APPROVED BY AF/ S: JWFOLEY

LABOR - ROBERT L. STEIN

LABOR - WILLIAM M. STEEN (INFO)

----- 096284

R 172122 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL DURBAN

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: U. S. EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

REF: A. STATE 82550

B. DURBAN 177

C. DURBAN 193

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING
INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO SUNDAY TRIBUNE ARTICLE:

1. CENSUS BUREAU FIGURES CITED IN APRIL 29 SUNDAY TRIBUNE
ARTICLE ARE COMPILED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND APPLY TO ALL
WORKERS ABOVE 14 YEARS OF AGE, INCLUDING BOTH PART- YEAR
AND PART- TIME WORKERS. IN 1971 ABOUT 9.7 MILLION MEN AND
14.0 MILLION WOMEN DID EARN LESS THAN \$1,700 (WHICH WOULD
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AVERAGE T TO \$ 42 P R MONTH) ACCORDIN TO RESULTS OF THE MARCH 1972 CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE LOW EARNERS, HOWEVER, HAD PART- YEAR AND/ OR PART- TIME JOBS. OF PERSONS WORKING 50 TO 52 WEEKS AT FULL- TIME JOBS, ONLY 900,000 MEN (2.5 PER CENT) AND 700,000 WOMEN (4.6 PER CENT) RECEIVED SUCH LOW EARNINGS DURING 1971. SIMILARLY, A BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS REPORT BASED ON A SPECIAL SURVEY IN MAY 1971 SHOWS THAT ONLY 3.6 MILLION (OR 6.3 PERCENT) OF ALL FULL- TIME WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS DURING THAT MONTH REPORTED THEIR " USUAL" WEEKLY EARNINGS WERE LESS THAN \$60 (ABOUT \$270 A MONTH).

2. THUS, AGGREGATE FIGURES CITED IN TRIBUNE ARTICLE MISLEADING AS AN INDICATOR OF AVERAGE U. S. WAGE LEVELS FOR REGULAR FULL- TIME WORK.

3. WITH REGARD TO WORKER COVERAGE BY MINIMUM WAGE LEGIS- LATION, THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATED THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1972, THERE WERE 77.3 MILLION WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES OF WHICH 62.5 MILLION WERE COVERED BY SUCH LEGISLATION.

4. AMONG THOSE COVERED, ABOUT 15.5 MILLION WERE IN PRO- FESSONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, MANAGERIAL, AND OUTSIDE SALES POSITIONS EXEMPT FROM SOME OR ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS. THUS, NUMBER OF WORKERS NOT COVERED OR EXEMPT WAS 30.4 MILLION, OR ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF ALL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS -- AS COMPARED TO " ALMOST HALF" CITED IN THE TRIBUNE ARTICLE. VAST MAJORITY OF THESE 30.4 MILLION, HOWEVER, ARE NOT PAID AMOUNTS LESS THAN THE MINIMUM; LATEST AVAILABLE DATA (APRIL 1970) INDICATE THAT ONLY 3.1 MILLION PRIVATE NONFARM WORKERS RECEIVED LESS THAN LEGAL MINIMUM WAGE (MAINLY EMPLOYEES OF SMALL RETAIL AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS). INCLUSION OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND FARM WORKERS (MANY OF WHOM ARE NOT ACTUALLY COVERED BY THE LEGISLATION) BROUGHT THE TOTAL TO THE 5.3 MILLION.

5. TABLE

EARNINGS IN 1971 BY WORK EXPERIENCE -- CIVILIANS 14 YEARS UNCLASSIFIED

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OLD AND OVER, BY SEX (NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS)

WORKED AT FULL- TIME JOBS DUR- 1971		WORKED AT FULL- TIME JOBS DUR- 1971	
WORKED IN ING PART OR ALL JOBS 50- 1971		WORKED IN ING PART OR ALL JOBS 50- 1971	
BOTH SEXES	OF 1971	52 WKS'71	

NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH
EARNINGS 95,371 74,988 52,821
NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH
EARNINGS BELOW \$1,700 # 23,740 9,406 1,667

ESTIMATED.

PERCENT WITH EARN-
INGS BELOW \$1,700 24.9 12.5 3.2

MALES

NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH 56,886 48,789 36,819
EARNINGS
NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH
PERCENT WITH EARN-
INGS BELOW \$1,700 17.0 8.4 2.5

FEMALES

NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH
EARNINGS 38,485 26,199 16,002
NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH
EARNINGS BELOW \$1,700 # 14,047 5,287 739

PERCENT WITH EARN-
INGS BELOW \$1,700 36.5 20.2 4.6

SOURCE: U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, CURRENT POPULATION
REPORTS, SERIES P-60 NO. 85, MONEY INCOME IN 1971 OF FAMI-
LIES AND PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES, PP. 123-124.

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6. COPY OF TABULAR DATA GIVING FURTHER BREAKDOWN BY SEX,
RACE, EARNINGS AND WORK EXPERIENCE FROM WHICH ABOVE TABLE
COMPILED BEING POUCHED. RUSH

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